

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Total of 30 points worth 30% of the final mark

Multiple choice questions are worth one point each. Enter your answers on the scantron.

1) Which of the following collagen post-translational modifications/events do not occur in the ER?

- 1) The transformation of procollagen trimers into tropocollagens.
- 2) Cross-linking of the N-terminal domains of type IV collagen with transglutaminase.
- 3) Cis-trans isomerization of proline residues.
- 4) Quality control for misfolded collagen molecules.
- 5) Binding of HSP47 to procollagen molecules.

A) 1&2 B) 2&3 C) 3&4 D) 4&5 E) 1&5

2) With respect to kidney filtration, which of the following statements are correct?

- 1) Charge selection is mediated by collagen IV within the GBM.
- 2) The glomerular Bowman's capsule is fenestrated.
- 3) Filtration slits are synthesized by podocytes.
- 4) The GBM of patients with Alport syndrome is composed of an  $\alpha 1(\text{IV})_2\alpha 2(\text{IV})$  network.
- 5) A developmental shift from an  $\alpha 3(\text{IV})\alpha 4(\text{IV})\alpha 5(\text{IV})$  network to an  $\alpha 1(\text{IV})_2\alpha 2(\text{IV})$  network in the GBM occurs after birth.

A) 1&2 B) 2&3 C) 3&4 D) 4&5 E) 1&5

3) With respect to the supramolecular composition of collagen fibrils in connective tissues, which of the following heterofibril combinations are not formed *in vivo*?

- 1)  $\alpha 1(\text{I})_2\alpha 2(\text{I})$  and  $\alpha 1(\text{V})_2\alpha 2(\text{V})$
- 2)  $\alpha 1(\text{IV})_2\alpha 2(\text{IV})$  and  $\alpha 1(\text{IV})\alpha 3(\text{IV})\alpha 4(\text{IV})$
- 3)  $\alpha 1(\text{II})_3$  and  $\alpha 1(\text{IX})\alpha 2(\text{IX})\alpha 3(\text{XI})$
- 4)  $\alpha 1(\text{III})_3$  and  $\alpha 1(\text{I})_2\alpha 2(\text{I})$
- 5)  $\alpha 1(\text{II})_2\alpha 2(\text{II})$  and  $\alpha 1(\text{IX})\alpha 2(\text{IX})\alpha 3(\text{IX})$

A) 1&2 B) 2&3 C) 3&4 D) 4&5 E) 1&5

4) With respect to the mechanism of targeting secretory proteins to the endoplasmic reticulum membrane, which of the following statements are false?

- 1) Binding of SRP to the signal sequence halts translation.
- 2) Signal peptide emerges from ribosomes after binding to the SRP.
- 3) Positively-charged amino acids are not found in signal peptides.
- 4) The P54 subunit of SRP contains methionine residues.
- 5) The signal peptide is a transient extension of the N-terminus secretory proteins.

A) 1&2 B) 2&3 C) 3&4 D) 4&5 E) 1&5

5) With respect to the translocation of single-pass secretory proteins across the ER membrane, which of the following statements are false?

- 1) Signal peptides trigger the initiation of mRNA translation in the cytosol.
- 2) ATP hydrolysis induces a conformational change that promotes the release of SRP.
- 3) The SRP is released after the ribosome has bound to the translocator.
- 4) Signal peptides serve as a start-transfer signal.
- 5) Signal peptide cleavage occurs on the luminal side of the ER membrane.

A) 1&2 B) 2&3 C) 3&4 D) 4&5 E) 1&5

6) With respect to type IX collagens, the following statements are correct?

- 1) Type IX promotes the nucleation of type II collagen fibrils.
- 2) Mutations in type IX collagen are associated with junctional epidermolysis bullosa.
- 3) Type IX collagen is concentrated in the core of type II collagen fibrils.
- 4) Type IX collagen cannot be dissociated from type II collagen fibrils with salts.
- 5) Type IX functions predominantly as a proteoglycan in the vitreous humor of the eye

A) 1&2 B) 2&3 C) 3&4 D) 4&5 E) 1&5

7) With respect to collagen IV assembly, which of the following statements are false?

- 1) C-terminal dimers are stabilized by hydrophobic and H-bonds.
- 2) N-terminal tetramers promote the binding of type VII collagen to  $\alpha6\beta4$  integrins.
- 3) N-terminal tetramers promote lateral association of collagen IV molecules.
- 4) Chain selection and assembly is directed by amino acid sequences in the C-terminal domain.
- 5) Lateral association of collagen molecules is promoted by the presence of non-collagenous domains.

A) 1&2 B) 2&3 C) 3&4 D) 4&5 E) 1&5

8) With respect to the synthesis and polymerization of type I collagen, which of the following statements are correct?

- 1) Removal of the propeptides decreases the solubility of the collagen molecules.
- 2) HSP47 is a collagen-specific chaperone.
- 3) Removal of N-propeptides is obligatory for the initiation of fibril formation.
- 4) Hydroxylation of proline residues is the rate-limiting step in triple helix assembly.
- 5) Crosslinking of HO-lysine residues is restricted to the C-terminal propeptide domain.

A) 1&2 B) 2&3 C) 3&4 D) 4&5 E) 1&5

9) With respect to epithelial tissue explants, which of the following statements are false?

- 1) When a native lens epithelium with an intact basement membrane is placed apical side up on a collagen gel, the epithelial cells begin to migrate and enter the collagen gel.
- 2) Basal plasma membrane blebbing is promoted when a corneal explant lacking a basement membrane is placed on a Millipore filter.
- 3) Epithelial polarity is maintained when a corneal explant lacking a basement membrane is placed on a Millipore filter containing type I collagen.
- 4) Embedding a corneal explant in a type I collagen gel induces the expression of type I collagen by the cells undergoing EMT.
- 5) EMT usually occurs from the apical end of epithelial cells.

A) 1&2 B) 2&3 C) 3&4 D) 4&5 E) 1&5

10) Which of the following statements are false?

- 1) Mutations in genes coding for type XVII collagen can lead to nonlethal DEB.
- 2) The ectodomain of type XVII collagen promotes hemidesmosome assembly.
- 3) The formation of collagen XVII trimers is initiated by the formation of C-terminal coiled-coils.
- 4) Collagen XVII is often upregulated by migrating keratinocytes.
- 5) The interaction of collagen XVII with  $\alpha 6\beta 4$  integrin promotes cell-matrix adhesion.

A) 1&2 B) 2&3 C) 3&4 D) 4&5 E) 1&5

11) With respect to the mouse embryoid body formation, which of the following statements are true?

- 1) The distribution of laminin can be visualized by staining with the fluorescent dye DAPI.
- 2) Polarization of the primitive ectoderm is independent of basal lamina assembly.
- 3) Mutations in type IV collagen inhibit stem cell proliferation.
- 4) The primitive ectoderm gives rise to an amniotic-like cavity.
- 5) Stem cell differentiation is inhibited by the presence of LIF.

A) 1&2 B) 2&3 C) 3&4 D) 4&5 E) 1&5

**Short Answer Questions** (*Marks will be deducted for information unrelated to the question you are answering*) **NOTE: The TAs did give marks for other answers if they were reasonable alternatives or partially correct.**

**12) What is the three dimensional organization of type I collagen fibers in the skin? Why? (1 pt)**

**Organization:** Weave-like

**Why?** To provide tensile strength in all directions that forces are applied

**13) With respect to collagen fibrillogenesis, what is the functional similarity between type V and type XI collagens? (1 pt)**

They act as nucleators to promote the initiation of collagen fibrillogenesis

**14) Why is the cartilage normal in organisms with dermatosparaxis disease? (1 pt)**

ADAMTS-2 is not expressed in cartilage ADAMTS-3 is expressed in cartilage

**15) Which do you predict would have a higher content of proline residues in their fibrillar collagens, cold-water fish or warm-water fish? Why? (1 pt)**

**Fish type?** Warm-water fish

**Why?** A higher content of proline residues will result in a higher HO-proline content, which will stabilize the triple helices at higher temperatures

**16) What is a possible consequence on embryonic development of inhibiting the glycosylation of type I collagen lysine residues? (1 pt)**

A decreased rate of collagen internalization and/or interaction with other ECM components

**17) What cellular process promotes the transformation of the first extracellular compartment into a secondary compartment? (1pt)**

Retraction of plasma membranes to promote bundle formation

**18) Why is rat-tail collagen digested with proteases before fractionation by SDS-PAGE? Why is the  $\beta$  band visible as a doublet by Western blot? (2 pts)**

**Why protease digestion?** The fibrils are too large to solubilize and/or penetrate into the gel

**Why a doublet?** It appeared as a doublet because the fibrils were not completely digested. Consequently two bands were visible – one representing a dimer composed of  $\alpha 1\alpha 1$  chains, the other composed of  $\alpha 2\alpha 1$  chains.

**19) Which of the following would cause a more severe osteogenesis imperfecta phenotype; a Gly400Val or a Gly800Val mutation in the pro- $\alpha$ 1(I) collagen chain? Why? (2 pts)**

**Which?** The Gly800Val mutation

**Why?** Triple helix formation begins from the C-terminal end. Interference with folding will result in increased and aberrant hydroxylation and glycosylation resulting in defective helices.

**20) Provide two reasons why the visceral endoderm appears disorganized in the absence of HSP47? (2 pts)**

**1:** Decreased CIV secretion (50% decrease)

**2:** Increase sensitivity to proteases

**21) What method would you use to differentiate between type II and type IX collagen molecules in cartilage? Why? (1 pt)**

**Method:** TEM using antibodies against the collagens tagged with different size gold particles

**Why?** The different size gold particles are visible under TEM, enabling you to differentiate between the different collagens.

**22) Which type IV collagen mutation(s) result in an equal probability of Alport syndrome between males and females? Why? (1 pt)**

**Which?** Mutations in the  $\alpha$ 3 and  $\alpha$ 4 chains of CIV

**Why?** The genes are found on autosomes

**23) Name two intracellular mechanisms that contribute the elimination of mutated  $\alpha$ -chain from bone forming cells? (1 pt)**

**#1.** ERAD (proteasome degradation)

**#2.** Autophagy

**24) In normal tissues, where are pN-collagens associated with collagen fibrils? What have researchers concluded regarding their location? (2 pts)**

**Where?** Outer surface of the fibrils

**Conclusion:** That cleavage of N-propeptides is regulated to limit the thickness of collagen fibrils

25) When embryonic heart explants were placed on a collagen gel, dense tracks of collagens were observed after 4 days. Which of the following were used to make the collagen: “procollagen” or “tropocollagen”? Why? (1.5 pts)

**Which?** Tropocollagen

**Why?** Procollagen molecules cannot form polymers in vitro. Hence dense tracks would not be visible if procollagen was used.

**What intracellular event promotes the pulling force? (0.5 pt)**

Actinomyosin contractions